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## **Local officials to discuss beach safety education**

**LANSING** – Sen. Ron Jelinek and South Haven Mayor Dorothy Appleyard have invited local public officials to discuss plans to implement a program of public education for beach and pier safety.

“There has been an increase in the number of drowning deaths in Lake Michigan and through studies we have learned the majority of the time it was due to lack of knowledge about rip currents, pier hazards and other marine dangers,” said Jelinek, R-Three Oaks. “We want to find a consistent way along the Lake Michigan shoreline of educating the public on how to have a safe day at the beach.”

In addition to a public education program, the group would like to discuss:

- studying and applying consistent standards for water safety
- encouraging legislation that protects communities from liability when implementing safety measures at local beaches.

Officials from 22 municipalities have been invited to the Sept. 11 meeting.

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